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SQUIBS FROM THE WATER FRONT

Although nearly 250,000 pounds of mackerel were landed in Boston yesterday by local seiners of the first squadron that sailed from here last Sunday night, the trips were all sold and the price obtained was \$3.10 per hundred pounds for large, and \$2.50 for small. That's even better than the minimum price demanded by the fishermen. It looks as if that is a vindication of the solid front presented by these Gloucestermen who have at last decided to stick together.

Incidentally, today is the last day that the first squadron's 29 boats may land mackerel until another week has elapsed, and every boat of that first group must return to port by tonight and tie up. Sunday coming, the second fleet of 29 seiners will leave the dock and begin operations. All this week's stocks will be shared by those who caught fish in the common pool.

Meanwhile the ground fishermen are having their troubles and arguments. Very interesting and up-to-the-minute meetings are being held on the Boston Fish pier, where the organization is underway, to bring in all fishing under the protection of the National Recovery act, proposed by this administration.

See by the dock at Capt. Ben Pine's that the swordfisherman Cape Ann, Capt. Mike Clark, is in port, having come in from Boston last night. He won't be here long.

The customary marine farewell blasts were accorded the yacht Ramah as she slipped away from Rocky Neck yesterday noon bound for Boston where she will have a new refrigerator installed, and thence on the 20th of this month, will skim across the Atlantic and into the Mediterranean, centering her summer cruise around Greece. Her owner-skipper is Dr. Alexander Forbes of Milton, an ardent yachtsman.

Business may not be very brisk in some parts of the city, but aboard the ancient lighter Herbert at Rocky Neck, where Prof. Pearson wields the wand of education as he paces the quarter-deck, the ship's list is well-nigh filled, is the report, proving that there are as yet a few who crave knowledge even if they have to go to the end of the world for it.

The little swordfisherman Klondike with Capt. Lawrence Daley and a crew of but five men, ventured forth yesterday morning, intent to try their luck with the rest of the fleet, but hardly had they reached the breakwater when the engine balked and back they came, only to attempt the trip once more last night—and evidently won, for the boat is not in port this morning. Those in the know will be interested to hear that in the crew is none other than the boy they call "Razzle" of the Razzle and Dazzle comedy team of ward two.

That's what Squibs calls a smart idea, carrying along a comedian these days, for if the luck goes against the fishermen they can always be cheered by a little good humor, or even a song and dance skit in the pulpit, that might even attract the fish to the vicinity, and thus increase the catch. And then again

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They're wearing ear-muffs on the waterfront these snappy, brisk wintry days in the good old summer-time, and wondering when the weather-man is going to wake up and discover his mistake. No ice has yet formed on the rigging, but it wouldn't surprise the halibuters or the seiners any, if they did greet the sun some morning soon and find themselves ice-bound in the harbor.

A goodly quantity of old English hake, 7000 pounds of 'em, were found in his traps by Henry Mayo, who brought them into Murray & Tarr's establishment at the Fort today. The traps are just outside the breakwater.

Skipper Eric Carlson is expected to get underway some time today bound on another halibuting excursion and hopes to fare as fortunately as the last trip when his crew shared almost \$90.

Another halibuter that will soon be leaving port is the Pilgrim, Capt. Cecil Moulton's craft now docking at Capt. Ben Pine's wharf. The Pilgrim is not going to Grand Bank this time, so they tell Squibs, but is headed for the Peak of Brown's which is between Brown's bank and Georges. The big reason that 'tis a thousand miles to Grand Bank and hardly more than 250 miles to the other region, which means a saving of half the time taken for the trip.

Just in case, Skipper Moulton spots any swordfish during his hunt for halibut, he has had a pulpit extended from his bowsprit, and will spear any swordfish that gets in his way, so as to cut down the overhead.

The swordfisherman Evelyn G. Sears came back to port last night and docked alongside Parkhurst's Marine railways, having sprung aleak near the grounds. Capt. Anthony Sears came in under his own power, however.

Old friends, and there were many, of Capt. Jimmy Gannon, greeted him again at the Master Mariners' club-rooms yesterday. The retired skipper who sailed out of Gloucester for many years, spends his winters in Seattle, Washington, from which he recently arrived to visit his old cronies here.

The small seiners are snaring the mackerel off Halfway Rock these days, three trips totaling 20,000 pounds being brought into port this morning, with 12,000 pounds going to the Cape Ann Cold Storage Company, and 7500 pounds to the Producers Fish Company both at the Fort.

Skipper Jack Brown took the had-docker Imperator on her way again last night, leaving Pew's wharf for Boothbay, Me., where the craft will get ice and bait, and then proceed to the banks.

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WYOMING COMING HERE FOR
THE FOURTH WITH 500
MIDDIES.

All but two of the first group of mackerel seiners returned to port last night, either coming from Boston or direct from No Man's Land, where some of them have had but little fortune in getting a trip. However, those who caught any fish at all will realize something from the pool which will be arranged as soon as all stocks are in the hands of those who have to worry over the calculations.

The Fort district is certainly a network of short spars this morning when all the fleet are closely clustered about the docks, and in fact, the whole waterfront presents a beautiful picture that should give the artists a week-end orgy of marine subject matter.

The seiner Dacia is one of the boats that failed to make her appearance this morning, and the reason was that again, the local craft had engine trouble, this time being disabled off Nantucket Lightship, forcing her to have to accept a tow from the Coast Guard cutter Acushnet, into Wood's Hole. Tough luck, Capt. Peter! While her regular skipper, Capt. Strescino is ashore having his eye doctored, Capt. Asa Baker, formerly master of the seiner Catherine Grafféo, is commanding the vessel which by the way has twin 45-horse-power engines.

The other truant is the St. Providenza I., which is on its way into port with Skipper Tony Orlando at the wheel.

That meeting tonight at the Master Mariners' rooms should be illuminating to the skippers and owners when their committee which has attended all the fiery Boston Fish pier get-togethers on the subject of banding in to one unit to prevent submersion of their investments, begin to tell what has been learned and what can be done in the controlling of the supply, and fixing a minimum price which will be taken by all boats. It really is an outgrowth of the mackerel seiners' plan, and is an effort to co-operate with the dealers, providing that the fishermen are given somewhat of a chance to keep the finances above water.

However, all this plan of control and price-fixing has led some students of the problem to feel that the large fish concerns are going to look toward Nova Scotia for their supply of salt fish if they cannot buy the fish here at the very low price to which they have accustomed.

Gloucester harbor is evidently going to have some real honest-to-goodness battleships anchored here this summer. On the Glorious Fourth, the U. S. S. Wyoming will spend the day, when 500 midshipmen from the United States Naval academy at Annapolis will have a chance to see an old-time fishing port. Later on, a few English battleships or cruisers are expected to drop anchor here, and the Cape Ann Rifle club intends to challenge the sharpshooters of His Majesty's ships to a little target competition.

Since Flag Day, over 120,000 pounds of live lobsters have come to Gloucester for the Consolidated Lobster company of Bay View, all from Nova Scotia ports. That's a lot of salad for any lobster lover.

RECEIPTS LIGHT ON WEEK-END

OVER 120,000 POUNDS LOBSTERS
LANDED IN FOUR
DAYS

Hardly enough fresh fish to keep a small company going was landed here since yesterday when the total only reached 18,600 pounds of cod and mackerel.

The seiner Sebastiana C., Capt. Charles Nelson had 12,000 pounds of mackerel in her holds which were brought down to the Capt. John Chianciola company. Five small trawlers had but 3600 pounds of cod, while six gill netters could only account for 3000 pounds of cod.

Since Wednesday four lobster smacks have arrived from Nova Scotian ports with a grand total of 120,300 pounds of live lobster consigned to the Consolidated Lobster company of Bay View. All but two of the mackerel seining fleet of the first squadron are in port today, and will stay at the local wharves for a week, while the second squadron leaves port tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock to try their luck along the shore.

A few of the seiners caught mackerel right off Cape Ann yesterday.

Gloucester Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:
Whiffen, trawling, 1300 lbs. cod.
Jones Brothers, trawling, 900 lbs. cod.

Sebastiano C., seining, 9000 lbs. small, 3000 lbs. large mackerel.
C2052, trawling, 300 lbs. cod.
Emma W., trawling, 800 lbs. cod.
C7225, trawling, 300 lbs. cod.
Leretha, via Boston.
Grace F., via Boston.
Old Glory, via Boston.
St. Peter, via Boston.
Salvatore and Rosalie, via Boston.
Antonio, seining, (returned).
Fannie F. Hickey, seining, (returned).
Bethulia, seining, (returned).
Linta, seining, (returned).
St. Theresa, seining, (returned).
Serafina N., seining, (returned).
Catherine Burke, seining, (returned).
St. Provvidenza II., seining, (returned).
Capt. Drum, seining, (returned).
Hoop-la, seining, (returned).
Serafina II., seining, (returned).
Angie and Florence, seining (returned).
Antonina, seining, (returned).
Lobster smack Fannie, via Clark's harbor, N. S., 175 crates live lobsters.
Lobster smack Satellite via Maine Adieu, N. S., 21,000 lbs. live lobsters.
Lobster smack Padio III, via North Sydney, N. S., 175 crates live lobsters.
Lobster smack Nova II., via Petit de Gras, N. S., 312 crates live lobsters.

Yesterday's Gill Net Receipts.

Enterprise, 1000 lbs. cod.

Rocky Neck railways for painting.

Sardine Factory To Open.

The Seaboard Packing company, which recently purchased the Product Packing company's plant on Spear's wharf, South Portland, as a branch of its sardine factories at Lubec, will start packing operations Wednesday and will employ about 150 persons, including 80 packers.

Lobster Notes.

The lobster catch in Antigonish county, N. S., waters has been below the average so far this season. During the month of May the quantity taken was about 80 tons less than for the same month last year. Bad weather and scarcity of bait are believed to be responsible. It is reported that the lobster factory at Blue Rock operated by Mr. Irving of Cape Travers, P.E.I., is about to be closed.

BOSTON PIER IS CLOSED TODAY

ACTIVITY AND TRADING SUS-
PENDED IN HONOR OF
BUNKER HILL DAY

This week's business at the Boston fish pier ended when the market and stores closed at the conclusion of yesterday's activity. Today, Bunker Hill Day, is being observed as a full holiday. Quantities of salmon, swordfish, mackerel and other varieties were received by rail yesterday. Salmon went out immediately for the holiday trade but most of the shipments will go over for Monday's trading.

The second division of seiners will go out for the coming week. Fleet comprising 29 boats, can sail any time after 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. A lot of them should be back again on Monday morning with any kind of luck.

Porto Rico.

Arrivals of fishstuffs since our last circular May 31, were as follows:

Steamers "Chomedy" from Halifax, N. S., and "Borinquen" from New York, at San Juan: 227 tierces and 142 barrels cod, 59 tierces pollock, 6 tierces haddock, 4 tierces hake, 4 tierces cusk and 110 barrels split herring.

At Ponce: 100 tierces cod.
At Mayaguez: 60 barrels cod.
At Aguadilla, 81 tierces and 100 barrels cod.
At Arecibo: 50 tierces cod.
At Arroyo: 100 tierces and 87 barrels cod.

Receipts continue unabated; there are two more direct steamers from Halifax and Newfoundland on the way to this port. Sales of codfish are reported as low as \$15 per cask, duty paid.

We quote today about as follows on usual "Net ex Wharf, duty paid" basis and for strictly superior quality:

Large codfish—\$20 to \$21 per cask of 448 lbs. net.
Small and medium cod (Labrador to Lunenburg)—\$15.50 to \$18 per cask of 448 lbs. net.
Pollock (American)—\$20 to \$21 per cask of 448 lbs. net.
Haddock—\$17 to \$18 per cask of 448 lbs. net.
Hake—\$15 to \$16 per cask of 448 lbs. net.
Split herring—\$5.50 to \$6 per barrel of 200 pounds.
Bloaters 90-150 count—70 cents to 75 cents per box of 18 pounds.
Reported by S. Ramirez & Co.

Nova Scotia Bait Report.

Canso—No bait. No vessels in port. Ice available.
Halifax—Twenty thousand pounds frozen herring available.
Liverpool—Plenty ice available.
Bait for local use only.
Lockeport—Limited quantity of bait only.
Lunenburg—No bait. Ice available.
North Sydney—No bait. Ice available.

Queensport—Few herring in traps. No vessels in port.
Port Hawkesbury—Fifty thousand pounds frozen herring and plenty ice available.
Shelburne—Forty thousand pounds frozen herring available.
Yarmouth—Plenty fresh and frozen bait and ice available.
Grindstone—Plenty herring and ice available at Gull Island. Scarce elsewhere. Mackerel catch yesterday fair.

On the 14th the Satellite, with Capt. Morrissey at the wheel, arrived having 21,000 pounds from Maine, and Adieu, Nova Scotia. Right behind him was the lobster smack Fannie, Capt. L. D. LeBlanc, with 175 crates or 26,250 pounds from Clark's harbor, Nova Scotia.

Yesterday it was the lobster smack Radio III., Capt. R. Schemesger which arrived from North Sydney, Nova Scotia, with 175 crates or 26,250 pounds of the choice delicacy of the sea.

And today the Nova II, with Capt. C. J. Myra in command, was entered with 312 crates or 46,800 pounds, from Petit de Gras, Nova Scotia, which rather keeps the company busy handling the supply. From this port they are shipped by rail to the entire nation.

He spoke of the time when some strange South American specimen left its accustomed haunts and invaded the waters along the local shores driving the mackerel away so that the fleet had to tie up. The last boat he commanded was the Nellie Gaskell in which as one of the crew was another old-timer, Capt. Joe Graham.

Incidentally he brought up the question as to how many Gloucester-born skippers have taken a boat across the Atlantic. That is an interesting question in that most of the skippers of fishermen hail originally from other countries. Maybe this will bring a protest from some of the readers of this column and if they know of Gloucester-born master mariners who have guided the fate of vessels across the long stretch, Squibs will be glad to use them and give the facts.

Mighty little work was done on the wharves or in the office of the Gorton-Pew Fisheries today, because all who are members of the Gorton-Pew club deserted ship and went frolic-ing to Stage Fort park on the annual picnic of the club, and take it from Squibs they're going to have one whale of a time, including a bit of swimming. The big banquet was scheduled at 1 o'clock this afternoon with President John Broderick of the club as toastmaster if there's one needed.

The swordfisherman Paolina which almost took a nose-dive into the briny the other day when she was invaded by salt water, is off the ways of Rocky Neck again and at the Pew wharf where Skipper Manuel Rocha is getting her ready for another battle against the swordfish of Georges and vicinity.

Although it has nothing to do with Gloucester, it seems exciting to hear that the North German Lloyd liner Bremen, sailing from Bremen to New York, established a new world's record for speed in crossing the Atlantic, a week ago when she made an average speed of 28.14 knots, taking only four days, 17 hours, 42 minutes for the passage, thus clipping a couple of hours off the previous record. That's traveling some! SQUIBS.

LOCAL CRAFT AIDED BY CUTTER

The Gloucester fishing schooner Dacia, reported in distress early yesterday, 24 1-2 miles south-southeast from No Man's Land, was picked up by Coast Guard cutter Acushnet, at 12.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and assisted into Woods Hole. Her engine had broken down. After repairing she will resume fishing.

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NEW EXPERIMENT WITH HADDOCK MAY BE SUCCESS

Relative Freshness May Be Determined by Analysis of Proten Elements— May Extend Tests to Other Fish

(Special to the Times)

Washington, June 17.—Manufacturers of products made from haddock will be "greatly benefited" by a new process just discovered by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries to determine accurately the relative freshness of the fish, the Bureau announced today.

The process makes it possible to determine approximately the length of time that haddock will remain in good marketable condition. Other tests applied to haddock reveal the relative advance of decomposition and for this reason, the Bureau states, are not considered as valuable to the fishing industry as tests which will determine the length of time haddock may be held before decomposition sets in.

The operation of the test is highly technical, but it was said that with proper equipment it would not be difficult for a layman to conduct the test, which requires about 45 minutes. The theory of the method is that the relative freshness of haddock may be determined by an analysis of the protein elements. The test is made by taking a small quantity of fish flesh and grinding it, and adding certain chemicals, which produces an electric current. The amount of chemicals added to produce a predetermined voltage indicates the condition of the fish flesh.

It was pointed out that although haddock is the only species to which this test may be applied, it is believed the same theory may be the foundation for other tests accomplishing the same results on other species of fish.

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SECOND GROUP OF MACKEREL SEINERS GOT UNDERWAY YESTERDAY.

Into the harbor this morning steamed the Steamer Baron Ailsa direct from Torre Vieja, Spain with 3300 tons of salt board, consigned to the Gorton-Pew Fisheries. She dropped anchor at 5.45 o'clock on the Pancake ground and the tug Eveleth, Capt. Loren Jacobs escorted her into the inner harbor to the Pew wharf where she will berth until her holds are unloaded, and new orders arrive for her skippers to steam away to some other port for another cargo. More about her tomorrow, for Squibs intends to get a really salty tale from the land of blushing señoritas and bull fights.

The weather-man isn't giving the mackerel seiners much of a "break" today, according to report, which indicates that a high wind is a-roaring out yonder, and the sky looks rather squallish. However, the big fellows may be looking for mackerel schools further south where the atmosphere may be more agreeable.

Not only did the Annie and Mary annex some swordfish which were landed in Boston today, but the Josephine and Margaret with Capt. Bert Perry in command, had 28, the Louis A. Thebaud, Capt. Percy Pieroway, had 29, the Doris F. Amero in which Capt. Nels Amero is skipper, had 33 of them, and the high-liner was Skipper Joseph Leavitt in the Alvin T. Fuller, who had just 40 swordfish. The opening price was 20 and 28 cents per pound, which wasn't so bad.

All of which would not be waterfront news if it were not for the fact that Mr. Roosevelt and party have taken to yachting to arrive at their destination. Why can't they give the man a chance to really isolate himself with his family circle for once, so that he will be refreshed and in condition to meet the harrassing problems that must be met by him on his return to Washington? The finest way in which to show appreciation of what he is endeavoring to accomplish would be to let him alone instead of treating him as a stage celebrity. That's that!

Even the poor fish get high-brow names when they go south for the winter or come north for the summer. Take the lowly horse-mackerel which is in disrepute in these waters because it is forever chasing the mackerel schools and upsetting the curriculum there. They call it the tuna fish, as if that would make it any less a nuisance. In the old days, that same horse-mackerel was not worth the catching. Nowadays on the west coast they have large-sized fleets out after them for the market.

Believe it or not, this revelation of what was and is going on, in the actual discovering of schools of mackerel, has helped to damage the fishermen, according to their story. The wise ones think that they would be better off if the radio were never introduced to a vessel. Some seiners they say just lay around with the crew glued to the radio reports, and then follow the directions given as soon as fish is reported. The result is often a glut on the market, and a consequent slump in the price.

As one of his crew, Capt. Alex has enrolled one of the best basketball players in this neck of the woods, one "Tony" Freitas who has furnished plenty of entertainment to fans at City hall for over a decade in making baskets. If Tony can score as many swordfish as he could baskets, the Polly and Jean will have to grow some to hold the catch.

Skipper "Col" Powers dropped into port Saturday night in the swordfisherman Annie and Mary with 26 fish. He sailed the first day of June and this is his first trip. Many of the fleet have not connected as yet.

Capt. Eric Carlson took the halibuter Pollyanna on another trip to the banks Friday night, leaving the Pew wharf, hoping to hit as near or nearer to a first-rate stock as he did last time.

Another halibuter to cast off her lines was the Oretha F. Spinney which left the Independent Fisheries wharf Saturday, with Capt. Carl Olson in command.

Ever hear of "Portygee" hake? Well, they tell the yarn along the waterfront, that years ago, when hake sounds were worth about 15 cents a pound, there was a fisherman of that nationality who was in Rockport waters, extracting the sounds from the hake with a wire, and of course when the fish were brought into market, and no sounds were discovered, the name was won for that soundless type.

When these master mariners hold a conflag, it certainly is a marathon affair, judging by Saturday night's session when the ship's bell tolled the witching hour before the decks were cleared. After the fishing fleet had listened to the new code of honor for the conduct of their industry, the seiners and swordfishermen burnt the midnight oil in another discussion of the financial pool.

Yesterday forenoon, the second group began to leave the wharves for the mackerel schools which are getting scarce along the Bay State shores. Their shrill horns vied with the church bells. May they have better luck than last week's fleet!

It was a quarter of a century ago when the wireless was first used to communicate the news of the fleet to the shore, according to the Times' files. It seems that they were catching mackerel close to South Shoal lightship, which was equipped with wireless, and from there they talked with Newport. The message was relayed to Gloucester by telephone.

Another item in that olden file is that Skipper Joe Mesquita of sch. Francis P. Mesquita caught the largest lobster on a hook attached to a trawl that has ever been seen at the Boston fish pier just 25 years ago today. The lobster measured 33 inches long, claws 16 inches, length of feelers, 18 inches. It was caught 26 miles off Chatham in 23 fathom of water, and actually nibbled on a hook.

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